

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A biopsy needle for obtaining a sample of tissue within the pleural cavity of a patient, said biopsy needle comprising

an outer tube having a closed distal end, a proximal end and a central canal therethrough, said distal end having a pair of oppositely disposed ~~at least one~~ peripheral openings ~~opening~~ formed in said outer tube proximate the distal end thereof,

an inner movable member interfitted within said outer tube, said inner movable member having a distal end adapted to be located at about the distal end of said outer tube and a proximal end accessible to a user at the proximal end of said outer tube, said inner movable member being axially movable within said outer tube,

~~at least one articulating member~~ a pair of articulating members affixed to the distal end of said inner movable member, said ~~at least one articulating~~ members ~~member~~ being movable between a retracted position within said outer tube and an extended position where said ~~at least one articulating~~ members extend ~~member extends~~ outwardly through said ~~at least one~~ peripheral openings ~~opening~~ in said outer tube, said pair of articulating members ~~at least one articulating member~~ each having an operative surface facing the proximal end of said biopsy needle when in said extended position whereby manipulation of said biopsy needle causes said operative surfaces ~~surface~~ to contact the pleural cavity of a patient to obtain tissue samples therefrom.

2. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one articulating~~ members are ~~member is~~ moved between said retracted position and said extended position by manipulation of said proximal end of said inner movable member.

3. (previously presented) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 2 wherein said proximal end of said inner movable member extends axially outwardly from said proximal end of said outer tube so as to allow the manipulation of said proximal end of said inner movable member.

4. (previously presented) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 3 wherein said proximal end of said inner movable member is formed as an enlarged handle for manipulation by a user.

5. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 1 wherein said closed distal end of said outer tube is pointed.

6. (original) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 1 wherein said outer tube has a longitudinal axis and said at least one articulating member moves outwardly to a position approximately 90 degrees to the longitudinal axis of said outer tube.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 7 1 wherein at least one of said articulating members has a cutting edge thereon.

10. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 7 1 wherein said at least one of said articulating members has a brush edge thereon.

11. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 7 1 wherein one of said articulating members ~~member~~ has a cutting edge thereon and the other of said articulating members has a brush formed thereon.

12. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 1 wherein said closed distal end of outer tube has an internal elongated opening, and said inner movable member has a needle shaped end that movably fits within said internal elongated opening to stabilize the axial movement of said inner movable member with respect to said outer tube.

13. (currently amended) A biopsy needle for obtaining a sample of tissue within the pleural cavity of a patient, said biopsy needle comprising

an outer tube having a closed distal end, a proximal end and a central canal therethrough, said distal end having a pair of peripheral openings ~~at least one peripheral opening~~ formed in said outer tube proximate the closed distal end thereof,

an inner movable member interfitted within said outer tube, said inner movable member having a distal end adapted to be located at about the distal end of said outer tube and a proximal end accessible to a user at the proximal end of said outer tube, said inner movable member being axially movable within said outer tube,

an end tube affixed to the distal end of said inner movable member, said end tube having two articulating members movably affixed thereto and extending from said end tube, ~~at least one articulating member movably affixed thereto, said at least one articulating member~~ said articulating members being movable between a retracted position within said outer tube and an extended position where said articulating members extend ~~at least one articulating member extends~~ outwardly through said ~~at least one peripheral opening~~ peripheral openings in said outer tube, said ~~at least one articulating member~~ articulating members each having an operative surface facing the proximal end of said biopsy needle when in said extended position whereby manipulation of said biopsy needle causes said operative ~~surface~~ surfaces to contact the pleural cavity of a patient to obtain tissue samples therefrom.

14. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 wherein said end tube is T-shaped having a pair of upper legs and said ~~at least one articulating member~~ comprise two articulating members extend ~~extending~~ from said upper legs of said T-shaped end tube.

15. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 14 13 wherein said end tube has an axial needle shaped end extending therefrom and said distal end of said outer tube has an elongated recess formed therein, said axially extending needle of said end tube adapted to slidably interfit within said elongated recess to guide the axial movement of said inner movable member.

16. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 wherein said proximal end of said outer tube is sealed by a an outer tube cover and wherein said proximal end of said inner movable member passes through the outer tube cover.

17. (original) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 16 wherein outer tube cover is threadedly affixed to the proximal end of said outer tube.

18. (original) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 16 wherein said outer tube cover has outwardly extending wings extending outwardly therefrom.

19. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 ~~18~~ wherein said proximal end of said inner movable member is enlarged to form a handle to allow manipulation of said inner movable member by a user.

20. (previously presented) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 wherein said inner movable member includes a stop means to limit the axial movement of said inner movable member outwardly from said outer tube.

21. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 20 ~~13~~ wherein said stop means comprises a enlarged diameter member affixed to said inner movable member that engages said outer tube cover when said inner movable member is moved outwardly with respect to said outer tube.

~~24~~ 22. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 wherein said outer tube has two openings in said outer tube and said at least one articulating member comprises two articulating members.

~~25~~ 23. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 ~~20~~ wherein at least one of said articulating members has a cutting edge formed thereon.

~~26~~ 24. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim 13 ~~20~~ wherein

said at least one of said articulating members has a brush edge thereon.

27 ~~25~~. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim ~~13~~ ~~20~~ wherein one of said articulating member has a cutting edge thereon and the other of said articulating member has a brush formed thereon.

26. (currently amended) A biopsy needle as defined in claim ~~13~~ ~~20~~ wherein said outer tube has a flexible tube affixed at about the proximal end thereof, said flexible tube communicating with the interior area of said outer tube and having a connector affixed to a free end of said flexible tube to remove fluids from a patient.

27. (currently amended) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a needle having a closed distal end with at least one articulating member movable between a retracted position to an extended position extending outwardly from the needle proximate to the closed distal end of the needle,

inserting the needle into a patient such that the distal end of the needle is located within the pleural cavity of a patient,

extending the at least one articulating member outwardly from the needle,

adjusting the location of the needle to cause the articulating member to contact the parietal pleura of a patient,

rotating the needle to move ~~moving~~ the at least one articulating member to pick up a sample of the pleura onto the at least one articulating member,

retracting the at least one articulating member to the retracted position,

removing the needle from the patient to collect a sample of the pleura adhered to the at least one articulating member.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient as defined in claim 27 wherein said step of providing a needle

comprises providing a needle having a retracted position wherein said at least one articulating member is fully contained within the needle.

30. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient as defined in claim 27 wherein said step of providing a needle comprises providing a needle having two articulating members

31. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient as defined in claim 30 wherein said step of providing a needle comprises providing a needle having one articulating member having knife edge formed thereon and the other articulating member having a brush edge formed thereon.

32. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient as defined in claim 27 wherein said step of providing a needle comprises providing a needle having an articulating member having a knife edge formed thereon.

33. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a sample of tissue from the pleural cavity of a patient as defined in claim 27 wherein said step of providing a needle comprises providing a needle having an articulating member having a brush edge formed thereon.